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THE RED CROSS

IN CHARGE OF

JANE A. DELANO, R.N.

Chairman of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service

TOWN AND COUNTRY NURSING SERVICE

BY FANNIE F. CLEMENT, R.N.

A few comments, as follows, on the special courses in public health nursing offered in various cities are quoted from letters of student nurses taking these courses in preparation for Red Cross service as visiting nurses. They are typical of many others, bearing testimony to the profit as well as enjoyment to be obtained from such post graduate work.

From a student taking an eight months' course at Teachers College, Columbia University, in conjunction with Henry Street Settlement:

I thought perhaps you would like to know just what we of the Red Cross were doing in New York. Classes have reached the interesting period of test, the first making its "début" last Saturday on Nutrition. The grades as yet aren't published so we are still holding our breath. Last Wednesday evening the professors of nursing entertained the nurses at tea in the Red Room at Whittier Hall, certainly affording splendid opportunity to become better acquainted. Miss Dock was among the interesting guests, still adorned with suffrage colors. My roommate and I were among the enthusiastic pedestrians in our recent suffrage parade. One important trip made for observation was to Ellis Isle and while there a boat came in with a few peasants from England and Ireland, but certainly not the typical type. Another place of particular interest was at the Department of Health Building. A whole day spent there would be worth while.

We are realizing a real benefit from the lectures in social science here and at the School of Philanthropy. Perhaps I should say we really enjoy those subjects. A test in social science on Thursday may crush this attitude a wee bit. In our school work, which comes every Friday, we have a chance to visit the different clinics, hospitals, etc., and especially use our persuasive powers in the home. I have been given four cases to look after, two of which are considered hopeless, but it is up to me to see what I can do. Much to my surprise, one youngster informs me that her family has consented to buy her glasses. However, I'm sure the year others have given of continual explanation and threat had the greater influence. The other cases are still pending.

We are paying \$7.50 for room and board now, instead of \$8.25, and have the kitchen attached, with tubs for our laundry and the use of an iron; we can do all in this way. Then, too, the library and school being so convenient, makes the place attractive. The family atmosphere counts a good deal with us strangers and there is always something in which we can find a common interest, through

the recitals or dances in the parlor. I have been placed on a Y. W. C. A. Neighborhood Committee to look after girls in two apartment houses (this one and next door) to keep the girls in touch with the things going on in Teachers College and anything in the neighborhood and through this feel as though I'm already pretty well acquainted. . . . I'm to prepare a paper on my experience with colored doctors for tomorrow and have been scratching my head furiously to plan an outline. I hope next year they may give the nurses lectures on public speaking.

From a student of the same course, after starting her practical work at Henry Street Settlement:

The sudden change from a life of mental activities to one of actual hard work has been very difficult for me. I find it is not well to allow one's self to get out of training for hard work. I know you will be glad to hear we are each to spend part of next month in the Henry Street rural district. I remember your asking about it. I am to start out there next week assisting the Nurse in charge who already has more than she can do.

Ever since coming to Teachers College I have wanted to take in a course in speaking of some kind and when the second term began, February first, I made several unsuccessful attempts to register for a course, each time finding that it was not the work I needed or that would help me. Miss Amerman is having weekly conferences with us and she is going to give us some training in speaking, herself, which I am sure will be a help to us. I am very glad, because I was so disappointed in not being able to take it up at the School. To begin with, she has given us each a different subject on which to prepare a five-minute talk, for next week. For example, I am to imagine my audience a class of boys and girls of eight years in school and speak to them about dental hygiene, the other nurses acting as critics. . . .

I feel that I have gained a broad and thorough knowledge of public health work in New York, together with its ambitions for still broader work. It seems very funny that I should have spent three years in Philadelphia and have learned practically nothing about the public health activities there. It makes me realize how shut in one really is during hospital training. I want to visit the different departments of public welfare in Philadelphia when I am through here. I know I shall wish many times for the generous supply of reference material available here at Teachers College.

From a student taking the four months' course at the Boston Instructive District Nursing Association:

I have been sick and am expected to make up all lost time, so I am sorry to tell you I shall not finish here until later. I am indeed sorry, for I am counting the days when I will be out helping the less fortunate to secure help and advice. I have found this course a most interesting one and I feel, too, I have made the most of every minute I possibly could. The instructors have been very kind to us and, I am glad to be able to tell you, have arranged a special course for nurses who wish to do the rural work. We have been out in a suburban section for all our district work. We have been favored with a most excellent supervisor and have had personal supervision which we could not have obtained had we gone

to the school district. We also have had some splendid lectures on rural work and the rural reading matter has been so interesting. I cannot say too much for this course and the kindness with which one is treated.

From an eight months' student, Boston Instructive District Nursing Association and School for Social Workers:

The realization that I would probably not have been ready for any kind of visiting nursing without this course has been mine. There has been an excellent opportunity here to learn directly from observation how to do the work, it seems, in all branches of public health nursing.

We have had splendid instructors and been afforded every opportunity in the work and through lectures and addresses to acquaint ourselves with the most modern way of meeting the needs of a community in the several branches which are all part of the work of a community or public health nurse.

I am very ambitious that I may be able to later on develop the work into which I go that I may have a health centre and all the various activities which should go with such a centre. I believe that my previous experience will be most helpful in this, in fact in all the other work which I shall do. I am very glad for all of it.

From Phipps Institute, Philadelphia in conjunction with Philadelphia Visiting Nurse Society, an eight months' course:

I am enjoying the course very much. It has been a year of experience that I would not have missed for a good deal. I am so glad to have had the opportunity and hope I shall be able to use it well when I have finished.